

IDMA-0589  
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28 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

SUBJECT: Replacement of IDEALIST Drivers

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval in paragraph 3 below.

2. Recently, when the Deputy Director of Security was briefing the new Director of Central Intelligence on the position of the Office of Security in Agency affairs, Mr. McCone observed to [redacted] "You know Gary Powers knew too much - what are you doing about such matters?" [redacted] replied that every precaution is being taken to preclude a recurrence. ([redacted] in so responding, was referring to the plans that we have in mind with regard to the "O" Drivers.)

3. As emphasized by the above expression of concern, I would like to suggest that the position of DPD is untenable with regard to our continued reliance upon the old hard-core cadre of IDEALIST Drivers of the Gary Powers vintage. Regardless of their technical ability and the difficulties involved in recruiting new Drivers, I suggest that immediate action should be taken to spot, recruit and process a new group of pilots for the IDEALIST program and outprocess the present group at the earliest feasible date.

4. It is my opinion that the Acting Chief, DPD and the Project Director, Mr. Bissell, would be placed in a most embarrassing position in endeavoring to respond to a possible query which would necessitate their admitting that our capability in this area rests upon the utilization of Drivers who probably know as much as Gary Powers, plus all sensitive information accrued since 1 May 1960.

5. I might add that in my opinion the only acceptable capability we presently possess for IDEALIST overflight of risk-of-capture areas consists of the recently trained [redacted] whose compartmentation should be rigidly maintained.

This document contains information

which is exempt from public release

[redacted]  
Chief, Security Branch  
DPD-DD/P

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Recommendation in Paragraph 3 APPROVED:

~~not approved~~  
STANLEY W. BEERLI  
Colonel, USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

Distribution:

1 - SO/DPD

~~2 - [redacted]~~

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